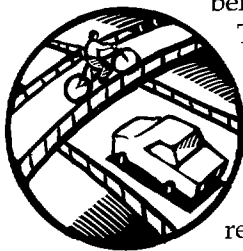




SAFETY

FHWA and AMS Advance the State of the Art in Accident Data Collection

FHWA is conducting research on developing an expert system for crash data collection. Enhanced accident data collection techniques that employ an expert systems approach are being developed.



The purpose of the effort is to demonstrate how the quality and utility of police reported accident data can be improved by using the knowledge of experts (accident reconstructionists, safety analysts, etc.) to guide users through selected parts of the on-scene data collection process. The American Management Systems (AMS) has entered into an agreement with FHWA to link the expert system modules being developed into AMS' existing accident data collection software. The joint effort between the two organizations will advance the state of the art in police accident data collection.

AMS' software, called Officer Information Manager (OIM), is currently being used in several State and local police jurisdictions to capture data at the scene of traffic accidents. In another FHWA effort, advanced data collection

technologies (pen-based computers, global positioning systems, and geographical information systems) used in Iowa, New Jersey, Washington, and Wisconsin have been evaluated from a benefit/cost perspective. At these test locations, police officers are using AMS OIM software on pen-based computers to capture accident data.

A combined FHWA and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) effort, the ALERT (Advanced Law Enforcement Response Technology) project, incorporates both hand-held and in-vehicle computers to store and transmit crash data more quickly to State records, data bases, or officer's base stations. For more information on the ALERT



Police officer uses Officer Information Manager software to collect accident data at an accident-t near Des Moines, Iowa.

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